



YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR THE EAST ASIAN SEAS

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

is an international organization focused on the sustainable development of coasts and oceans through integrated management solutions and partnerships. For over 20 years, PEMSEA has worked towards its vision of healthy oceans, people and economies in East Asia. PEMSEA recognizes that young people are key stakeholders in the future of coasts and oceans and play a crucial role in initiatives towards the sustainability of our shared seas.

Through its Youth Program, PEMSEA empowers young leaders to take action supporting the health of coastal areas in their communities. The Youth Program provides tools, online and in-person gatherings and financial support to help young people develop as future leaders in coastal and ocean sustainability.



Empowerment Through the Youth Grant Competition

PEMSEA seeks to engage passionate youth leaders looking to protect and sustain the coastal areas in their community. In 2015, PEMSEA launched an annual **Small Grant Competition** for youth projects.

During its first year, the grant was awarded to Enggar Wardani, a student leader from Bogor Agricultural University in Indonesia. Through PEMSEA's grant, she was able to work on solutions for coastal erosion and environmental education. Together with her team, Enggar mobilized stakeholders, including the local government and community members, to join them in planting and maintaining 1.5 hectares of mangroves. The team also visited 800 children across different elementary schools in the span of three short months to share educational games about oceans. The young students they visited now know the names and characteristics of local fish, among other knowledge, and they are enthusiastic about protecting their marine life.



Professional Development

PEMSEA offers community building and professional development opportunities for youth looking to improve their skills and connect with others who are passionate about oceans. These include an online community, webinars and other training workshops in integrated coastal management (ICM). With access to PEMSEA's community, young leaders can learn about best practices across the region. Members of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Youth Program also gain access to information about available scholarships relevant to coastal and ocean sustainability.

Regional Participation through the EAS Youth Forum

The EAS Youth Forum is held in conjunction with the triennial East Asian Seas Congress, providing a platform for young leaders to interact with thought leaders and ICM practitioners from around the region who can impart knowledge and inspire future projects. At the most recent EAS Youth Forum held in Danang, Viet Nam in November 2015, young leaders from PEMSEA partner countries gathered to showcase their initiatives contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), enhance their skills and strengthen their role in the sustainable development of the coasts and oceans.



The next EAS Congress is scheduled to be held in the Philippines in November/December 2018.



Useful Links

To watch a video on the first Small Grant Competition winner, visit <http://pemsea.org/news/indonesian-youth-take-coastal-and-ocean-challenges>.

Details about PEMSEA's 2017 Youth Grant Competition can be found at <http://pemsea.org/news/pemsea-youth-grant-competition>.

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